

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Rodriguez for her assistance and time during our teleconference this morning. During that conference Applicants proposed including two outwardly extending flange members 14, 14 (which assist sealing and positioning) on proximate front and rear faces on the outer edge portions of the elastomeric member, and that the same were not present in the Siebert et al reference as the noted flange members 3/8 and 4/8. It was agreed that the proposed amendment would likely overcome that reference and that enclosed amendment would be provided for the examiner's review. It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is urgently requested.

Reconsideration is requested with the following comments as an aid.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13-20 are pending in the application and were initially examined. Claims 15 and 16 stand initially allowed. Claims 3, 6, and 11 are canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to include flange members 14, 14 in dependent claim 3, and claim 3 has been canceled.

Accordingly claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 3.

Similarly, claim 5 has been amended to include flange members 14, 14 in dependent claim 6, and claim 6 has been canceled.

Accordingly claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 5.

In claim 8 it is noted that first and second flange members extending outwardly from an edge portion proximate front and rear face are already literally claimed and required (see last clause) and so no additional amendment is required.

Claim 10 has been amended to include flange members 14, 14 and their particulars noted in dependent claim 11, and claim 11 has been canceled.

Accordingly claims 12, and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 10.

Claim 17 includes and requires first and second flange members extending outwardly from

an edge portion proximate front and rear face and are already literally claimed and required (see lines 10-12 in claim 17) and so no additional amendment is required.

Claim 18 addresses the rigid bracket member and depends from claim 17 and so no additional revision is required under the present agreement.

Claim 19 is amended to include first and second flange members extending outwardly from an edge portion proximate front and rear faces. Claim 20 depends from claim 19 and is allowable for that reason.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the enclosed amendments and the following representations. It is believed that the above response address each concern raised by the examiner. Support for the amendments is found in the original claims, specification, and drawings. While Applicants have respectfully disagreed with the Examiner's comments, Applicant's have elected to amend the claims for clarity for the purpose of clarifying the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals.

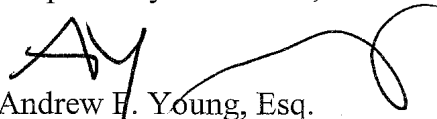
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 10-0100.

No new matter has been added.

If the Examiner would like to discuss the present application, claims, amendments or other matters, Applicant would appreciate a courtesy call to discuss placing the application in condition for allowance.

Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,


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August 14, 2006